

JOE COLLINS (ALIAS TUG WILSON)

Leicester

Born March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1847

Died : 19

~~NOTE: KNOWN TO BE STILL ALIVE JAN 10 1925 - PHOTO IN SPORTSMAN (LEICESTER) TUG WILSON (JOE COLLINS) AGE 78~~

Claimant : "English" 11 stone- 154 lbs Middle-weight Title" 1880-1882

Claimant : English Heavy-weight Title 1881-1882

Claimant : "Worlds" Heavy-weight Title July-Sept 1882

Plain won, lost-drew & exhibition record as researched and compiled by Aylesham, Kent Boxing Historian = Harold Alderman

Note : Never officially lost a bout (but mainly a bare knuckle prize fighter)

1864/65

Tom Kenny "The Shoe Black" W 015  
nr.Leicester Wfoul

round number badly faded in Dec.23 1879

"Sporting Life"

Note Bare knuckle prize fight, lasting 1 hour, 15 mins. Stated to be Joe Collins "ring debut" aged about 17 – bout not traced and some doubts about it, as not listed in "Fistiana" or report of March 28 1867, bout carried in "Sporting Life" pen picture of Dec 23 1879 (when given as being in "December of 1866") and Oct.26 1907 "Sporting Life" pen picture which stated Collins then at a young age being only "about 17" – was "bare-knuckle prize fight."

1866

July 2 – Jack Almey nr.Leicester W(70min)

Note bare knuckle prize fight stopped by police, opponents surname later given variously as Orme, Omev and Ormev.

Patsy Gillen (Leeds)

W3

Note not traced although claimed.

1867

March 28 – Tom Kenny "The Shoe Black"

Fiskerton, Nottinghamshire Drew Police 37

Lasting 2 hours 29 minutes (also just 37 minutes given with no mention of rounds)

Note Bare knuckle prize fight

1868, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78 no record of taking active part in any bouts.

1879

Jan.17 – Tompkin Gilbert – Nottingham

EXH.3

Mar 25 – Alf Greenfield – Leicester EXH.3

Mar 25 Tom Allen – Leicester EXH5

Dec 22 – Teddy Carney – Nottingham RTD  
Wret 25

Note Stated to be "Wilson's" first bout for several years – fought "Kenny The Shoe Black" in last bout.

1880

Jan 23 – Teddy Carney-Leicester EXH3

Feb 2 – Jimmy Highland-Nottingham EXH3

Note opponents surname also given as Ireland, Collins repeatedly challenged "World" at 11 stone during year – when challenge went unanswered – formerly claimed to be "English 11 stone (154lbs) Champion"

1881

Jan 18 – George Fryer – Leicester EXH3  
May 26-Alf Greenfield-Nr.Brighton Drew 21  
Lasting 1 hour 35 minutes.

(billed as English "Bare knuckle" Heavy-weight Championship) and £200

Note at the request of The Prince of Wales who was a spectator at bout, went unreported in the general and sporting press with exception of "The Sportsman" of May 28 1881 – which although carrying report didn't name the men – "Sporting Life" several weeks later – July 28 1881 gives venue as Leicester and stated bout went in to 28<sup>th</sup> round and lasted 105 minutes (1hour 45 minutes).

## 12-1 JOE COLLINS ALIAS "TUG WILSON"

### 1881 Cont'd

Greenfield broke small bone in right arm in 5<sup>th</sup> round but carried on for a further 16 rounds ("Sportsman") till unable to continue but had so badly punished "Wilson" that he too was unable to continue, and was in fact the first one to agree to "a draw" although he (Wilson) later claimed "he was winning easily at time of stoppage".

July 5 - Alf Greenfield-Leicester EXH3

Aug. 8 - Alf Greenfield-Birmingham EXH3

Sept 7 "Tug Wilson" the 11 stone Middleweight Champion"

### 1882

Apr 6 - William Sherriff("Prussian") - Shoreditch EXH3

Apr 24 - William Sherriff("Prussian") Leicester EXH3

Apr 6 - Alf Greenfield English Bare Knuckle Heavyweight Champion announced retirement and "Tug Wilson" formerly claimed title.

May 21 - William Sherriff("Prussian") Leicester EXH3

May 22 - William Sherriff("Prussian") Leicester EXH3

June 6 - Sailed for U.S.A. on "Lord Clive"

July 17 - John L Sullivan - New York TS M.S.G. WP4

Note Sullivan had to stop "Tug Wilson" inside the scheduled 4 rounds or lose 1000 dollars (\$) to Wilson. - failed and referee Harry ("Billy" also given) awarded decision to Wilson who lasted distance simply by "dropping" (27 times in all) but stood between rounds and laughed and smiled through out, while Sullivan sat down between rounds and was puffed out at end of the four rounds - Wilson also on half of the gate receipts (attendance was 12,000) reportedly got 8000 dollars (\$) in all from this one bout Plus formerly laying claim to "Worlds Heavyweight Title"

Sept. 11 arrived back in England on the "Indiana" (had sailed from U.S.A. on Aug. 30) and although promising to return on Oct. 2 to the U.S.A. to fulfill contracts signed, never did - and in all intents and purposes retired from boxing

### 1883

Jan 23 - Charlie Mitchell-Leicester EXH3

Note Wilson "had all best of it, nearly stopping Mitchell in 3<sup>rd</sup> round".

Jan 29 - Charlie Mitchell-Manchester EXH3

Note Collins ("Wilson") acting "under orders" allowed Mitchell to "have best of it"

Feb 5 - Charlie Mitchell-Sheffield EXH3

Note bout was "sparring even" was Wilsons third and last spar with Mitchell on this "Sparring Tour" of Mitchells, in later years it was stated Mitchell took on and beat all the top men in England in genuine bouts on this tour, but other than "Wilson" the only two other top men he met on this sparring tour were Alf Greenfield (once) and William Sherriff ("Prussian") - both in "spars"

Mar 12 - William Sherriff ("Prussian") Nottingham EXH3

Mar 13 - William Sherriff ("Prussian") Nottingham EXH3

Mar 16 - William Sherriff ("Prussian") Edinburgh EXH3

Mar 17 - William Sherriff ("Prussian") Edinburgh EXH3

Jun 19 - William Sherriff ("Prussian") Leicester EXH3

July 14 - "Young" Halford Nr. Nottingham EXH3

Note Actual venue "The Boatman Inn" but just where it was, not given.

Nov. 28 formally retired from all forms of boxing "having gone into an entirely different business".

### 1886

Apr. 13 - Alf Greenfield Leicester EXH3

### 1905

Aug. 12 - Jem Mace - Euston Music Hall EXH3

Note final traced ring appearance of Joe Collins "Tug Wilson's" ring career.

### SUMMARY

Bouts	Won	Drew	Lost	Exh
30	5	2	0	23

1912 MAY 24 IN HAMILTON, OHIO, U.S.A. A 62 YEAR OLD MAN DIED WHO WAS STATED TO BE "TUG WILSON" - THE ENGLISH HEAVYWEIGHT WAS NOT THE SUBJECT OF THIS RECORD - BUT AN IMPOSER - PURPORTING TO BE "TUG WILSON OF ENGLAND"